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### **Environment Department Invites Public to Rio Puerco Watershed Meeting**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) is seeking to preserve, protect and improve New Mexico's lakes, rivers and streams. It is currently focusing on the Rio Puerco watershed in the northwest portion of the state. To help with this push, the bureau is seeking public input and involvement in surface water quality planning for this important watershed.

To help gather this input and inform stakeholders of watershed activities and programs as well as to provide a forum for interested parties to ask questions and supply comments on watershed needs and priorities, the Department has planned a public meeting. This meeting will be at 7:00 pm Tuesday February 10th, at the Senior Citizen's Center, 16-A Cordova Street (in the Village Complex) in Cuba, NM.

At this meeting, representatives from the Environment Department SWQB will discuss the monitoring plan for the Rio Puerco watershed, pollution control measures, field demonstrations, and future Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

A TMDL is a planning document that establishes specific goals for water quality conditions. It includes reduction estimates for pollutants currently exceeding state surface water quality standards and an implementation plan suggesting what actions might be carried out to restore or protect the health of the body of water.

Additional information can be found on the Environment Department's website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>.

For more information, contact Michele Mykris, Outreach Coordinator for the NMED SWQB at (505) 827-0418, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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